

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS	X			
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T	-	X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	VC/NIC				
16	C/S		X		
17					
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		SUSPENSE 1200 15 May for Comments 16 May for NSC Material			

Remarks TO 4: Please notify ES ASAP re comments on draft NSDU. Separately, please provide material for NSC Meeting.

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Date

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

Executive Registry

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May 12, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. DONALD P. GREGG
Assistant to the Vice President
for National Security AffairsMS. RUTH KNOUSE
Director, Executive Secretariat
Department of TransportationMR. NICHOLAS PLATT
Executive Secretary
Department of StateMR. PHILIP A. DuSAULT
Acting Associate Director for
National Security and
International Affairs
Office of Management & BudgetMS. SHERRIE COOKSEY
Executive Secretary
Department of the TreasuryCOLONEL DAVID R. BROWN
Executive Secretary
Department of DefenseExecutive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

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MR. JOHN N. RICHARDSON
Assistant to the Attorney
General and Chief of Staff
Department of JusticeREAR ADMIRAL JOHN BITOFF
Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Joint Chiefs of StaffMRS. HELEN ROBBINS
Executive Assistant to
the Secretary
Department of CommerceMR. RICHARD BARNES
Director of International Affairs
National Aeronautics and
Space AdministrationSUBJECT: National Security Council Meeting on U.S. Space
Launch Capabilities

There will be a National Security Council meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 1986, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Cabinet Room of the White House. The subject of the meeting is to discuss decisions to reconstitute the U.S. space launch capabilities. A proposed NSDD is attached for your review prior to the meeting. Your comments of concurrence or change to the NSDD are requested by May 15, 1986. If we do not receive your comments by May 15, we will assume concurrence. No extensions will be granted to this suspense date.


Rodney B. McDaniel
Executive Secretary

Attachments

1. Agenda
2. Draft NSDD

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Attachment #1

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 20, 1986
Cabinet Room
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

U.S. SPACE LAUNCH CAPABILITY

Agenda

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| I. Introduction | John M. Poindexter |
| o Background | (10 minutes) |
| o Issues for Decision | |
| II. Senior Interagency Group | Gerald M. May (NSC) |
| Study Findings | (15 minutes) |
| III. OMB Funding Options | Randall Davis (OMB) |
| | (5 minutes) |
| IV. Discussion | All participants |
| | (25 minutes) |
| V. Summary | John M. Poindexter |
| | (5 minutes) |

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Attachment #2

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER

UNITED STATES SPACE LAUNCH STRATEGY (U)

Introduction

This directive establishes national policy for restoration of a national capability to launch satellites and missions into space in support of U.S. goals to explore and use space for national security, civil, and commercial purposes. It is essential that U.S. space launch operations be reconstituted as efficiently and as quickly as possible consistent with safety concerns; and that the reconstituted U.S. space launch assets provide a balanced, flexible space launch capability which can function independent of failures in any single system. (U)

The U.S. space launch assets will be sufficiently robust to allow a return to regularly scheduled launch operations, meet continuing requirements and to help make up for lost launch opportunities. (U)

This directive updates Paragraphs 3 and 4 of NSDD 164. Previous directives which include NSDDs 42, 80, 94, 144, and 181 remain valid but are modified accordingly. (U)

National Space Launch Capability

The U.S. national space launch capability will continue to be based on a balanced mix of launchers, consisting of the Space Transportation System (STS) and expendable launch vehicles (ELVs). The elements of this mix will be defined to best support the mission needs of the national security, civil government and commercial sectors of U.S. space activities. Critical mission needs will be supported, whenever necessary, by both the STS and the ELVs so as to provide added assurance that payloads can be launched regardless of specific launch vehicle availabilities. (U)

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a. National Security Space Transportation. The national security space sector will use both the STS and the ELVs as determined by specific mission requirements.

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Provision will be made for additional ELV launch facilities needed to support the full range of orbits required by the national security missions. (C)

Implementation: The Department of Defense (DOD) will procure additional ELVs to maintain a balanced launch capability and to provide assured access to space. The DOD will implement assured mission capability in payload/launch vehicle compatibility and scheduling, and maintain a launch capability for ELVs at both the East and West Coast launch sites. DOD will establish jointly with NASA a revised pricing agreement for national security missions that fly the STS. (U)

b. Civil Government Space Transportation. The unique STS (Shuttle) capability to provide routine manned access to space must be exploited in those areas that offer the greatest national return. The STS fleet will be reconstituted to maintain the Nation's capability to support critical programs requiring manned presence and other unique STS capabilities. NASA will emphasize exploiting the unique capabilities of the Shuttle as well as supporting civil research and development programs. (U)

Implementation: NASA will procure a replacement STS orbiter, structural spares and other lost equipment in an expeditious and cost-effective manner. Specific STS target flight rates established in previous NSDDs are no longer in effect. NASA will establish sustainable flight rates to provide for planning and budgeting of Government space programs. The recommendations of the President's Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident will be considered and incorporated as appropriate. NASA will not maintain an ELV adjunct to the STS. (U)

c. Commercial Space Transportation. Consistent with Administration policy to encourage and facilitate a domestic ELV industry and with the space launch recovery strategy, the STS will no longer provide launch services for commercial and foreign payloads exclusively for revenue-generating purposes. Special consideration, however, will be given to commercial and foreign payloads that will require the unique capabilities of the STS. (U)

Implementation: The Commercial Space Working Group of the Economic Policy Council (EPC) will develop a transition plan that considers the method and timing to implement this policy. The Working Group shall consider all factors that limit a transition to a viable commercial launch capability. They will consider the views of the expendable launch vehicle, upper stage and

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